

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: REGIONWIDE **County:** PLUMAS, SIERRA and LASSEN

Applicant: FEATHER RIVER LAND TRUST

Project Title: LEARNING LANDSCAPES

Reference Number: SNC 070299

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust proposes to complete an effort entitled "Learning Landscapes", for the northern regions of the Sierra Nevada. For past years the Land Trust has developed partnerships with community members and landowners to conserve approximately 1,800 acres of undeveloped watershed lands. A primary goal of the Learning Landscapes program is the permanent conservation of 12 properties and the natural resources they support (530 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, 16 miles of perennial streams, 700 acres of mixed conifer and eastside pine forest. 250 acres of irrigated pasture, and 200 acres of montane meadow). SNC Strategic Opportunity funding would provide for key pre-acquisition costs (e.g. appraisals, Phase I hazmat surveys, title reports, legal review, etc).

[Through communication with SNC staff this proposal has been reduced from a request of \$115,973 to \$61,820. The original request also provided for an education program that utilizes each property, since the targeted lands are situated next to area schools in each community. Plans included curriculum development, some interpretive site development, and restoration efforts by students. SNC Staff has requested FRLT to secure land tenure on the properties prior to funding development of curriculum.]

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Successful completion of due diligence, baseline documentation and title review for twelve (12) properties.
- Match: Permanently conserve twelve (12) top priority properties via title acquisition or conservation easement, or other permanent legal instruments.

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months, twelve (12) months and eighteen (18) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Due diligence, baseline documentation, title review for 6 properties.	Year 1: April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009
Six-month progress report	September 30, 2008
Due diligence, baseline documentation, and title review documentation for remaining 6 properties.	Year 2: April 1 2009 – March 31, 2010
Twelve month progress report	March 31, 2009
Eighteen month progress report	September 30, 2009
Remaining due diligence, baseline and title review documentation completed.	Year 3: April 1, 2010 – May 1, 2010,
Final Report/Final Payment Request (Submit photos, press releases, final documentation.)	May 1, 2010

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Pre-acquisition work for 12 properties (\$40/12)	\$21,600
Title, deed restriction/easement, (16 hrs X 12X \$200/hr w/attorney-\$38,400.) SNC portion:	\$10,000
Baseline—environmental assessments/pre acquisition costs [40 hrs(12) @ 45/hr]	\$21,600
Travel and Lodging	\$2,000
Materials	\$1,000
Administrative Costs	\$5,620
GRAND TOTAL	\$61,820
(FRLT MATCH)	\$2,7000,000

Letters of Support:

- Plumas County Office of Education

Recommendation: Recommend funding at the \$61,820 level.

(SNC 070299 Learning Landscapes)**FRLT Learning Landscapes Project Summary**

The Learning Landscapes Project is an innovative, multi-partner effort to permanently conserve natural areas adjacent to every public school within the Feather River Watershed, to implement an ongoing program of watershed education on these lands, and to manage and restore these lands in manner that maximizes educational benefit and watershed health. The project area includes all of Plumas County and portions of Lassen and Sierra Counties.

The fourteen priority Learning Landscape properties contain approximately 1,800 acres of undeveloped watershed lands. These lands support 530 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, 16 miles of perennial streams, 700 acres of mixed-conifer and eastside pine forest, 250 acres of irrigated pasture, 200 acres of montane meadow, and more than 125 species of breeding birds. One of the primary goals of the Learning Landscapes Project is the permanent conservation of 12 of these properties and the natural resources they support. The vast majority of the Learning Landscapes are located on private land and many are threatened with development. Strategic Opportunity funding from the SNC will help directly protect these properties and natural resources by paying for the key pre-acquisition costs (e.g., appraisals, Phase I hazmat surveys, title reports, legal review, etc.) necessary to move each transaction toward completion.

Another goal of Learning Landscapes is to maintain and restore the ecological health of each property, with an emphasis on stream restoration. Strategic Opportunity funding from the SNC will help move restoration projects forward by providing funding for restoration planning and environmental compliance.

Finally, SNC funding will allow FRLT to coordinate with a variety of partners, including the Plumas Unified School District, Feather River CRM, local teachers, and the students themselves to plan and implement a program of watershed education on each of the Learning Landscape properties.